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Signature of Sender:

*Hiltebrandt*

Name of Sender:

*Silvia Lucht*

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	HILTEBRANDT, Siegfried	) Examiner:
Application No.:	09/621,870	) LEWIS, W.
Filing Date:	07/21/00	) Art Unit:
For:	SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	) 3731

**FAX RECEIVED**

OCT 24 2001

**GROUP 3700**

Atty. Docket No.: US 4037

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR AMENDMENT****BOX-NON FEE AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a response to an outstanding Office Action in the above identified application.

(X) No additional fee is required.

( ) The fee has been calculated as shown below:

S.N. 09/621,870 filed 07/21/00  
HILTEBRANDT, Siegfried

Atty. Docket: US4037

### CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Number Extra	Rate	FEE
Total claims	13	-	20	X	x\$18	0
Independent claims	2	-	3	X	x\$84	0
Multiple dependent claim added					\$280	0
					TOTAL\$	0
( ) If small entity, then divide total fee by 2				SMALL ENTITY TOTAL \$ 0		

( ) A Petition for Extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a)

( ) Please charge Deposit Account Number 50-0355 in the  
amount of \$ for the extension.

(X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of  
fees associated with this communication or credit any  
overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0355.

(X) Applicant believes that no extension of term is  
required. However, this conditional petition is being  
made to provide for the possibility that applicant has  
inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee  
for extension of time.

( ) Return Postcard Receipt

Respectfully submitted

*Paul Vincent*

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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HILTEBRANDT, Siegfried  
Application No.: 09/621,870  
Filing Date: 07/21/00  
For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

#8  
Amold B  
D. Byrce  
10/31/01  
) Examiner:  
) LEWIS, W.  
) Art Unit:  
) 3731

Atty. Docket No.: US 4037

October 20, 2001

Amendment

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231  
U.S.A.

This communication is in response to the Office Action in the subject patent application mailed July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Please amend this application as indicated.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend ~~claims 14 and 24~~ as indicated below. Please cancel claims 15 and 25 without prejudice. Claims 16 to 23 and 26 to 28 remain unchanged.